

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 201044Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7865

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 0386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: PPP WINS BALUCHISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT

REF: A. KARACHI 0370; B. ISLAMABAD 1744

1. ACCORDING TO UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF POLLING CONDUCTED FEBRUARY 18 TO FILL BALUCHISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT, VACATED BY SARDAR KHAIR BUX MARRI OF NAP, PPP CANDIDATE MIR TAJ MOHAMMAD JAMALI RECEIVED 70,542 VOTES WHILE HIS CLOSEST RIVAL SALIM BUGTI, SON OF EX-GOVERNOR SARDAR AKBAR KHAN BUGTI, RECEIVED 61,368 VOTES. THREE OTHER CONTESTANTS MADE NO SHOWINGS OF ANY SIGNIFICANCE.

2. ELECTION TOOK PLACE IN HIGHLY POLITICIZED ATMOSPHERE. FOLLOWING SWEARING-IN OF NEW PROVINCIAL MINISTERS FEBRUARY 15 (REFTEL A) PACE OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY CONTINUED FEBRUARY 16 WHEN IN EARLY MORNING GRENADE THROWN INTO QUETTA RESIDENCE COMPOUND OF EX-GOVERNOR BUGTI EXPLODED WITHOUT CAUSING PHYSICAL INJURY. LATER SAME DAY AT PPP

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ELECTION RALLY SCUFFLE RESULTED IN ONE REPORTED FATALITY OF

PPP SUPPORTER (REFTEL B). GOP MINISTER FOR INTER-
PROVINCIAL COORDINATION RAFIZ PIRZADA REMAINED ON THE
SCENE FOR THE ELCTION.

3. COMMENT: REPORTED CLOSENESS OF VOTE SUGGESTS THAT
CAMPAIGN WAS HARD FOUGHT WITH PPP AND ITS OPPOSITION
PULLING OUT ALL STOPS. NARROW PPP MARGIN OF VICTORY
CONTRASTS UNFAVORABLY WITH OVERWHELMING MARGINS SECURED
BY PPP CANDIDATES IN OTHER RECENT ELECTION SUCCESSES IN
SIND AND PUNJAB (KARACHI A-13, 2/13/74). PRESS HAS BEEN
SILENT ON LOCAL REACTION TO ELECTION RSULTS, BUT IT
NEARLY INESCAPABLE THAT SARDAR BUGTI WILL AT A MINIMUM
ALLEGE ELECTORAL FRAUD AND MALPRACTICES AND PERHAPS EVCD
NOW IS DEVISING OTHER WAYS OF ATTEMPTING TO ASSUAGE THIS
POLITICAL SET-BACK.

4. NO MATTER HOW IT WAS DONE, THE PPP WON THIS ROUND SINCE
JAMALI IS THE FIRST PUBLICLY ENDORSED PPP CANDIDATE IN A
GENERAL ELECTION TO HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO OFFICE IN BALUCHI-
STAN. CURRENTLY TWO NAP MPA SEATS, THOSE OF GUL KHAN
NASIR AND ABDUR REHMAN, HAVE BEEN DECLARED VACANT AND
ELECTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 20 AND 21. PPP LIKELY
PUSH HARD TO INSURE VICTORY IN THES POLLS BECAUSE, IF
SUCCESSFUL, PARTY WILL THEN BE ABLE TO POINT WITH PRIDE
TO DEMONSTRATED POLITICAL POPULARITY AND ACCEPTANCE IN
PROVINCE WHICH IT HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNABLE TO DO. SUCCESS
IN MNA ELECTION STRONGLY FORECASTS THAT REGIME WILL
ENGINEER SIMILAR RESULTS IN MPA BY-ELECTIONS. WHETHER
PPP WILL THEN BE WILLING O SETTLE FORESTABLISHED POLITICAL
PRESENCE ON BALUCHISTAN POLITICAL SCENE, OR CONTINUE TO
PUSH FOR DOMINANCE SUCH AS IT HAS IN SIND OR PUNJAB, APPEARS
SOLELY DEPENDENT ON PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S DESIRES.
TIGER

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